

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, do I remember correctly that you passed out some information at one point, and I don't remember how long ago, about the economics of it, about how states are impacted by this kind of a policy, and could you respond to that.

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah, I don't have it with all the piles of stuff here. But...but what they...there was an analysis done that shows there is actually a very...without having leave policy, there is a very negative impact on wages of those...the women, primarily, that are affected, and also on public service costs. For instance, Nebraska, it is estimated, has an \$800,000 annual cost in various services that have to be provided because leave policy isn't there. And so, yeah, studies have been done that show that not having a leave policy is more costly than having a leave policy like this.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, that's what I thought I had read somewhere. And so that's why I'm having so much trouble understanding why business would be so against this bill. If, indeed, experience has shown that it's just plain good management, and that it's cost effective, I don't understand the problem. And, in fact, to refer back to Senator Coordsen's comments on the floor about some of the businesses who came in and testified, most of those were bigger businesses, and they'd probably fall under this bill, 100 employees or more. And they were saying they already have things in place. So, you know, to be real truthful about the matter, I'm afraid since we amended the bill, that's not going to have very much impact anywhere in this state, that indeed it's the...it's the businesses, the smaller businesses that less frequently have these kind of policies in place. Would you respond to that.

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Schimek, I had that same feeling, too. But some recent information has come to me that shows that's not the case. I...maybe in Nebraska, I've yet to see a survey of how many Nebraska companies with 100 or more employees have got some type of leave policy. But it's Gallup Survey of NFIB, which is one of the groups opposing this, members found that only 22 percent of those companies employing over 100 had a family leave policy. That's a national study.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, maybe what some of those companies were